

REMARKS

The Advisory Action mailed July 11, 2006 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 10, 12-16 and 35-39 have been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 50-52 have been added. No new matter has been entered. Claims 1-10, 12-16, 35-39, and 49-52 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10, 12-16 and 35-39 are allowed. The Examiner objected to claim 2 and 3, but indicated that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

New claim 50 incorporates the limitations of objected-to claim 2 and base claim 1. New claim 51 recites the same subject matter as that of objected-to claim 3. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 50, and its associated dependent claim 51 are now in condition for allowance.

The remainder of this response addresses the rejections of only claims 1, 4-9, and 49 in the Final Office Action dated April 18, 2006, which claims were the only claims indicated as rejected in the Advisory Action of July 11, 2006.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Petrunia (U.S. Patent 5,212,761). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claim 1 to advance this case to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application.

Claim 1 recites a housing having a bottom, a top, a rear, and a front. The bottom, the rear, and the sides define a cable notch region, wherein the cable notch region defines an opening for receiving a cable. A cable clamp is mounted on and extends from the rear in the cable notch region.

The Examiner notes that Petrunia discloses a clamp 22 extending from the rear, as "the rear is defined by the curved wall and the cable clamp 22 extends towards the front from the rear of the module" of Petrunia. Page 3 of the Final Office Action.

Applicants submit that Petrunia fails to disclose a cable notch region, as defined by the limitations of claim 1; Petrunia therefore fails to disclose a clamp in the cable notch region. Applicants further submit that the clamp 22 of Petrunia does not extend from the rear of the module, as required by claim 1. In contrast, Petrunia discloses that the "clamp 22 [] is screwed into the side 12 of the module". See column 2, lines 55-57 (emphasis added); and FIG. 3. Nonetheless, Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that the recited cable clamp is mounted on the rear of the housing. Petrunia specifically teaches that the clamp 22 is mounted on the side 12 of the module, not the rear of the module, as required by claim 1.

At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

I. The Examiner rejected claims 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrunia (U.S. Patent 5,212,761). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 4-9 depend upon claim 1. In view of the remarks regarding independent claim 1, further discussion regarding the independent patentability of dependent claims 4-9 is believed to be unnecessary. Applicants submit that dependent claims 4-9 are in condition for allowance.

II. The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,975,769) in view of Petrunia (U.S. Patent 5,212,761). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claim 1 to advance this case to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application.

The Examiner states that Larson discloses the recited limitations of claim 1, with the exception of a clamp extending from the rear in the cable notch region. The Examiner relies upon Petrunia to make up for the deficiencies of Larson. However, in light of the clarifications to claim 1, and for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that Petrunia does not make up for the deficiencies of Larson. In particular, neither Petrunia

nor Larson discloses a clamp mounted on the rear of a housing. To establish a prima facie case for obviousness, the references must teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; this basic requirement has not been met.

At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and dependent claim 49 are patentable.

New Claim 52

New claim 52 recites a connection module including a housing having a housing interior defined by a front, a rear, a top, a bottom, and sides. The bottom, the rear, and the sides define a cable notch region. A cable clamp is mounted outside of the housing interior in the cable notch region.

None of the cited art discloses the recited limitations of claim 52. For example, Petrunia discloses a clamp 22 (see FIG. 3) that is mounted with a housing interior, not outside of the housing interior in a cable notch region. Larson simply does not disclose a clamp.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 52 is patentable.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-10, 12-16, 35-39, and 49-52) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

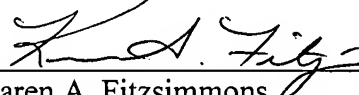
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.



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Respectfully submitted,

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